

Powers Award

In your Oct. 3 Aviation Week (p. 126), John Zawiski suggests the creation of a Francis G. Powers Award to individuals or groups making significant contributions to aerial reconnaissance. I'm not saying I'd have done any differently than Powers if I'd been captured by the Russians. But I hope I would have. One thing is certain in my mind, I wouldn't want anybody to preserve the memory of my performance by an award. I would want to forget it, and I would want my fellow countrymen to forget

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U-2 Mission

Re: U-2 Pilot Award, AW Oct. 3 (p. 126). Mr. John Zawiski's letter proposing a Francis G. Powers Award, I believe, is completely out of order.

Mr. Zawiski states that he has never been connected with any aviation company or any aviation service. Due to his lack of contact with the aviation world he may not realize that when we pay large salaries we expect that the job will be done fully and properly. We, and I use this expression as a taxpayer, paid Mr. Powers \$30,000 a year to do a job and we will be paying that salary for the next 10 years while he sits in a Soviet jail, with the job uncompleted.

A part of Mr. Powers' job was to destroy the aircraft and himself if captured or stopped on his mission. In failing to do his job properly and fully he has caused the United States world-wide embarrassment, and discovery of a very valuable aircraft.

If the job had been a normal one it would have been flown by a captain or lieutenant of the United States Air Force at his normal pay rate.

Mr. Powers knew what he was getting into when he took the job and his salary was commensurate with the risk involved.

To Mr. Zawiski's question—I say no, I would not fly over Russia for twice the salary as I am a married man with three children to support, but there are many unmarried men who would take the job and accept the risk that goes with the high salary and they would complete the job if stopped in their mission.

I say that Francis G. Powers was no credit to the aircraft he flew.

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